



BY THE GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF GEORGIA

## A PROCLAMATION

### HUNTING AND FISHING DAY

- WHEREAS: Georgia has a rich and storied tradition of hunting and angling that pre-dates the establishment of Georgia as a state and carries forward to this day; and
- WHEREAS: Georgia's sportsmen and women were among the first conservationists to support the establishment of the Georgia Department of Natural Resources' Wildlife Resources Division to conserve fish, wildlife and their habitats, as license fees helped fund state efforts to provide for healthy and sustainable natural resources; and
- WHEREAS: Upon realizing that license fees alone were insufficient to restore and sustain healthy fish and wildlife populations, sportsmen and women supported self-imposed excise taxes on hunting, fishing and boating equipment to raise additional funding for conservation; and
- WHEREAS: To this day, the Wildlife Resources Division is funded primarily by sportsmen and women through the American System of Conservation Funding – a "user pays – public benefits" approach that is widely recognized as the world's most successful model of fish and wildlife management; and
- WHEREAS: Last year alone, Georgia's sportsmen and women generated approximately \$54 million through this system to support the conservation efforts of the Wildlife Resources Division; and
- WHEREAS: Georgia's nearly 1.1 million hunters and anglers support the state's economy by spending more than \$2.3 billion annually while engaged in their pursuits. This spending supports more than 39,600 jobs in Georgia and generates \$216 million in state and local taxes; and
- WHEREAS: National Hunting and Fishing Day was established in 1972 to celebrate and recognize hunters and anglers for their immense contributions to fish and wildlife conservation, and to our society; now
- THEREFORE: I, NATHAN DEAL, Governor of the State of Georgia, do hereby proclaim September 22, 2018, as HUNTING AND FISHING DAY in Georgia and join in recognizing the many social, cultural, economic, and ecological benefits of the time-honored traditions of hunting and angling.

In witness thereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the Executive Department to be affixed this 29<sup>th</sup> day of August in the year of our Lord two thousand eighteen.



Nathan Deal  
GOVERNOR

ATTEST

Chris W. Riley  
CHIEF OF STAFF